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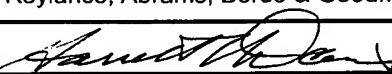
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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	10/053,659
Filing Date	01-24-2002
First Named Inventor	Kazushi TORII
Art Unit	1711
Examiner Name	A. Woodward
Attorney Docket Number	43379

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below): Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P. (Customer No. 001609)		
Signature			
Printed name	Garrett V. Davis		
Date	06-21-2005	Reg. No.	32,023

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PATENT

43379

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Kazushi TORII et al.

Art Unit: 1711

Serial No.: 10/053,659

Examiner: A. Woodward

Filed: January 24, 2002

For: WATER-ABSORBING AGENT AND
PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR, AND
WATER-ABSORBENT STRUCTURE

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the March 21, 2005 Office Action.

In the Action, claims 48-50, 53-56, 59-63, 66-70, 73, 78-81 and 86-89 are rejected. In view of the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The Rejection

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over WO 95/22358. For the reasons discussed herein, the claims are not anticipated by or obvious over WO '358.

The rejection is based on the position that WO '358 discloses water-absorbent materials prepared from essentially the same components in the same proportions as the claimed invention. Thus, the Action suggests that the resulting product of WO '358 and the claimed invention reasonably appear to be identical or only slightly different. The Action further